consenting to share/bear the cost thereof, as per rules. However, the railways on their own also have been undertaking manning of such of the unmanned level crossings, where warranted on account of traffic density of visibility considerations. Accordingly, 11 level crossings have been identified for manning during 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Wagons in Bihar

6504. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wagons supplied from Barkakana of Estern Railway to Chhipadohar, Latehar, Richughuta, Tori, Mahuamilan, Ray and Khilari Station for piece meal loading;

(b) whether this supply has been stopped since March, 1991;

(c) whether Railways have decided that now piece meal loading will not be undertaken and in its place goods will be sent by rake; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) During the period March'91 demand for 2394 piecemeal wagons were met from these stations. 2306 wagons were moved by clubbing the supplies in block rakes and 88 wagons were loaded in piecemeal. Piecemeal loading has to be regulated frequently to meet the demand of movement of essential commodities like foodgrains, fertiliser, cement etc. in block rakes. Railways have not eschewed piecemeal traffic as such. Due to heavy demand for loading of foodgrains, fertiliser, sugar, salt and other core sector traffic, piecemeal wagons are collected for formation of block rakes. Block rake movement ensures transportation of higher quantum of traffic at faster speeds thus meeting the requirement of essential commodities in all parts of the country.

Catering Facilities at stations

6505. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased be state:

(a) the manner in which the catering facility provided at railway stations is reviewed;

(b) Whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain that Public are satisfied with the present standard of catering; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for improvement in the catering system and if so, the the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Regular/surprise checks are conducted by officers/inspectors of Zonal Railway during which requirement of passengers vis-a-vis, facilities available are reviewed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways always strive to improve the quality of food and service. This is an ongoing and continuous process. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include use of standard raw materials, use of modern kitchen appliances, training to catering staff, frequent inspections, etc.